

December

Magic Lantern Society **NEWS 2013**



An Eidiphusikon!

Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

Click Quickly to See Our PDF Version... See page 6 to find about a Eidiphusikon

Boston Massachusetts July 10-13, 2014

**Click Here
for call for
presentations
proposal Form!**

Call for Presentation proposals

Initiation The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada invites members and non-members alike to submit proposals for presentations pertaining to the Magic Lanterns and other related visual entertainers for its 10th International Convention. Proposals from researchers, students, hobbyists, and entrepreneurs are all welcome.

Subject Matter Typical presentation topics include: Original research regarding magic lanterns, slides, shows, showmanship, slide vaccinations, and newly created shows.

Presentations are encouraged that further the stand purposes of the Society.

1. To establish an organization of interest and continue interest in the collection, promotion, conservation, preservation, and maintenance of Magic Lantern Slides and related material.
2. To encourage member interest and encourage to share their knowledge of the history, uses and slides related material with any interested person or entity.
3. To coordinate research, collection, and preservation of the Magic Lantern and Lantern Slides.
4. To provide exhibits and shows of Magic Lanterns, equipment, Lantern Slides and the known methods of use as is historically accurate as possible.

Source Material Presenters are encouraged to use original source material, i.e. original lantern slides produced using a slide projector, or a manner appropriate to the historical nature of the slides. Reproductions of copies of slides are used, that should be clearly stated.

The Society understands the difficulties and hazard of traveling with original source materials over long distances and digital presentation methods is proposed. Presenters are strongly encouraged to incorporate a few original slides into their presentation to illustrate original format, quality, colors, and special effects, as compared to the digital images.

Time Length Presentations are typically scheduled for 20-30 minutes each, with shorter and longer presentations considered based on the overall convention schedule and the subject matter proposed.



Holiday Greetings to All!

A belated Happy Thanksgiving to you. I hope the day was shared with family and friends and that you had delicious food to go with the good company.

Terry and I had a good trip to England and the British Magic Lantern Convention in Birmingham. Lindsay Lambert is writing up a report of the Convention. Needless to say, there was a spectacular exhibit put together by Lester Smith, some very interesting and provocative presentations and a fabulous dinner in the Birmingham Council Chambers, hosted by George Auckland, Chairman of the British Society and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Mervin Heard provided the evening's show.

In November, I met with Dick Balzer in Brookline, MA beginning to really flesh out the July 2014 Convention. For all of you who are hoping to attend you will not be disappointed. He is working on a very interesting program. If you have not yet responded to the request for presentations, please do so by December 15, 2013. Dick is still looking for new presenters and people who might be in the Magic Lantern Variety Show, much like the one at the Bloomington Convention. These are short shows as part of a larger one.

As we approach the Holiday Season, I wish you all the best for happiness, good health and an enjoyable time with family and friends. May the New Year bring the best to all.

Deborah Borton, President

The British Magic Lantern Convention

From Lindsay Lambert

I was very pleased to attend the 9th International Magic Lantern Convention in Birmingham, November 25-27 at the Birmingham & Midland Institute. The building is Victorian brick, and had a history for magic lantern presentations. Included in our registration packets was a copy of the new Convention publication, *The Temple of Minerva: Magic and the Magic Lantern* at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, London, by Jeremy Brooker. The Polytechnic was an important place of education that offered lectures, and was the location of the 2009 British Convention.

The Convention Exhibition was quite special. There was a collection of late 18th century Dutch slides of four hand-painted image glasses in wooden frames. There was a display of lantern illuminant's of all types, including a rare Nernst lamp magic lantern. It is one of only two surviving examples. Lester Smith provided an impressive



display of zoetrope strips, as well as the circular bottom disks, often neglected, but are very interesting in their own right. There were lantern phenakistoscopes, choreutoscopes and related early animation devices and imagery. I was particularly impressed by a complete set



of slides for the Hughes Giant Choreutoscope, which are larger than the usual, with eight rather than six images. A running animation of each was shown on a screen. There is no known example of the Giant Choreutoscope mechanism. In a display case held children's optical toys, including a charming little Pepper's Ghost illusion.

The presentations were mainly talks on magic lantern history and projection practice, rather than lantern shows. Mervyn Heard described theatrical effects slides entitled "Pose, Cloak and Moving Wallpaper." Tristam Mostert gave an account of early Dutch slides and their makers. In the evening we were all treated to "Gilbert's Galantee Show," of wonderful dissolve and effects slides set to music. A very unusual collection of matched dissolving sets.

Saturday, Ross Ashton presented "Nocturnal Art - A History of Outdoor Projection". It concluded with images of current large scale moving projections on buildings. In one, the entire edifice seemed to shatter before your eyes! It was spectacular. Lydia Jakobs' "Picturing Poverty, George R. Sims and the Magic Lantern," on the use of lantern shows to raise people's awareness of the conditions of the destitute. Later in the day, Richard & Jan Rigby presented "The Cadbury Connection." The chocolate maker put good social theory into practice by treating his employees well, and building a model community for them. Cadbury made extensive use of lantern slides for advertising, and a number of these were shown. Dr. Ian Edwards from Australia described his family's five generation involvement with magic lantern shows. Gwen Sebus & Sarah Dellmann discussed racist, sexist and other politically incorrect slides, and how (or if) they should be used. Peter Gillies exhibited two versions of "A Winter Tale" by Wilhelm (?) Busch, the

continued next page

The British Magic Lantern Convention Continued

rather grisly cautionary tale of a disobedient boy who freezes to death. Ludwig Vogel-Bienek talked about “Storage in Snetiment- the Bamforth Life Model Negatives.” At the end, our own Terry Borton presented “238 Eminent Lantern Showmen,” his study of Chataqua lanternists. Presentations were billed as “Illustrated Lectures” or “Stereopticon” talks. The term Magic Lantern Show was not used, as it was considered vulgar or inconsequential entertainment.

The Convention Dinner was held in the grand banquet room of the Birmingham Council House, hosted by the Lord Mayor, wearing his heavy gold chain of office and his Lady. Lantern showmen were encouraged to attend in their performance outfits to add to the festivities. Following an excellent meal, Mervyn Heard presented “‘Lord Frentley’s After Dinner Stint,’ Fun For Half the Family,” with his own inimitable banter, stories and eccentric slides. He included some comically tame “good old English pornography,” followed by two “real French pornography” slides, in case anyone felt cheated. A “slipped mask” and “slipped number” obscured the questionable bits, with Mervyn exclaiming “Oh No!!” each time. The Lord Mayor quite enjoyed the show, and had a good look at Mervyn’s lantern and slides afterward.



Terry Borton decked out in the Lord Mayor's gold chain of office with the Lord Mayor and his wife.



Debbie Borton decked out in the Lord Mayor's gold chain of office with the Lord Mayor.

The Convention Auction was held on the Sunday, with 15% of the proceeds going to the Society. This was followed by the final event on magic lantern practice in Japan. It began with a showing of children’s celluloid slides and short-loop 35mm. film animations. The hand held lanterns were on the Japanese tradition behind the screen.

Coming from the relative isolation of Ottawa, Canada, I was overwhelmed by the sheer number of events. I enjoyed seeing old friends, and meeting people who I had only corresponded with or known by reputation. I can say truthfully that A Good Time Was Had by All. I just thank the organizers and volunteers who brought it all together. Their task can’t have been easy.

WANTED

ASAP

From Pat Kulaga



I am in need of a condenser unit, brass cased, which is like 4 9/16" or 4 11/16" on the outside rims. If you have one or know of anybody who does please let me know.

Pat Kulaga pkstore2@stereoview.net

Thanks

Pat

1870s “Air-Mail” of Lantern Slides

From Alan Johanson

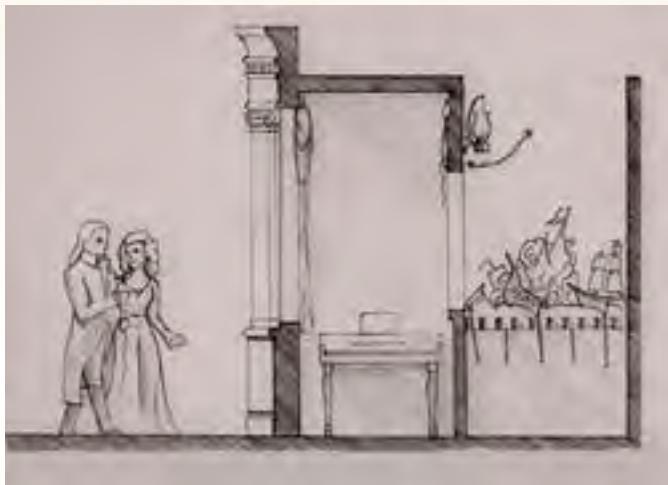
Hi, guys - and thanks for sending me these monthly notices! I'm not an active lantern slide collector, just have a box of nice plates tucked away picked & chosen over the decades - but as a member of The Daguerreian Society, we attended their symposium in Paris last month to commemorate the unveiling of Daguerre's only surviving Diorama (a 6 year restoration process).

More to your interest, though, we encountered this way-cool painting in the Carnavalet museum.



It's an Eidiphusikon

From Terry Borton



The Eidiphusikon was a piece of art, no longer extant, created by 18th century English painter Philip James de Loutherbourg. It opened in Leicester Square in February 1781.[citation needed] Described by the media of his day as “Moving Pictures, representing Phenomena of Nature”, the Eidiphusikon can be considered an early form of movie making. The effect was achieved by mirrors and pulleys. A small exhibition centered on his Eidiphusikon can currently be seen at The Huntington Library. This version uses the computer to move all the layers and objects

It's a what?

A late 18th century form of animated theater.

Not a magic lantern, but interesting, nonetheless.

For a modern recreation, see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_SIjy0GbMU



**The Images Are
Elegant,
Concise & Precise**



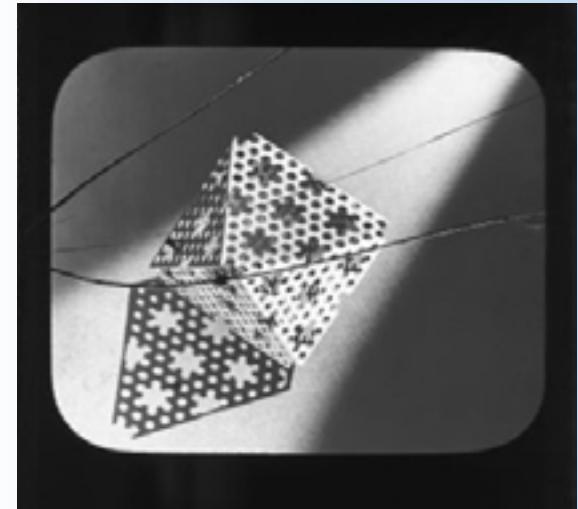
How Lantern Slides Revolutionized Education: A Protein Story

By Maria Popova

When an old entertainment technology brought the world to the lecture hall, bridging science and art.



<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2013/01/21/how-lantern-slides-revolutionized-education/>



Dorothy Wrinch's cracked lantern slide showing her protein model. The model was constructed and photographed in Niels Bohr's laboratory in Copenhagen; the lantern slide was made for Irving Langmuir, 1940.

A Chance To See A Carbon Arc Lantern in Action

Striking a Carbon Arc Magic Lantern



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaCXTmfG76k>

A 1910's Bausch & Lomb "Balopticon model B" arc projector in action on YouTube.

This glass-slide projector features two carbon rods that you strike then separate: an electric arc heats the rods and so creates a bright white light.

Hand Colored Lantern Slides Long Trail Photographs Collection

From University of Vermont Libraries

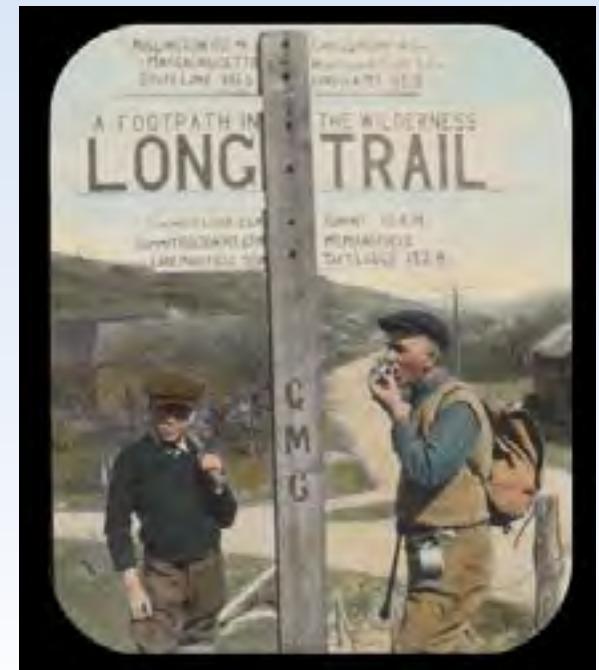
A narrated slide show with some interesting comments about handcoloring lantern slides

Dan DeSanto, staff member of the Bailey/ Howe Library, discusses the hand-colored lantern slides from our new Long Trail photographs collection.

This collection documents the nation's first long-distance hiking trail and is comprised of over 900 digitized glass lantern slides dating to the 1910s – 1930s.

These images capture the landscapes seen by early hikers, document recreational and maintenance activities on the trail, and provide an historical record of people associated with the trail's formation. The photographs were taken by early Long Trail advocates Theron S. Dean and Herbert Wheaton Congdon.

The Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) is a digital library of unique research collections. It is the UVM Libraries' goal that students, faculty, staff, scholars, and community members participate as users and creators of digital resources in an open, collaborative environment. The CDI also works with users to integrate digital collections in their research, teaching, and learning strategies. For more information, and to propose a new collection, visit cdi.uvm.edu/about/about



From Richard Kennedy

Still
Wanted

I would like to purchase
Lantern Slides made by the
National Geographic Society in
Washington, DC.

Thank you.

• Richard T. Kennedy
18825 6th Avenue Southwest
Normandy Park, WA 98166-3978

richard_kennedy@ci.des-moines.wa.us

Which one tells the true story?

From: David Lowe



Glass lantern slide images c. 1920s-1930s from the J. Horace McFarland Collection at the Archives of American Gardens.

Smithsonian Collections Blog

Highlighting the hidden treasures from over 2 million collections.

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

True Story? Glass Lantern Slides

The Smithsonian Collections Blog theme for American Archives Month is True Story: a series of eight assignments until you go looking for it! According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word *lens* is defined as: a narrative, true or pretended to be true. In the case of glass lantern slides, it means that the story they tell is completely true, can be a bit misleading.

Thousands of historic glass lantern slides in the Archives of American Gardens dating back to the 1920s and 1930s depict gardens and landscapes at their finest and were often used to illustrate lectures like our modern-day PowerPoint presentations. Before color film became prevalent, a colorist, or person who applied translucent paint to black-and-white film on glass, wielded a great deal of power when producing these lantern slides. The shades they used may have heightened the actual plant colors or even introduced a completely different color palette! Considering that the coloring was typically done in a photography studio far from where the images were photographed, it is anyone's guess just how accurate some of the details are.

<http://si-siris.blogspot.com/2013/10/true-story-glass-lantern-slides.html>



Academic research is often based on the knowledge of collectors and amateurs – this series shares information the other way around. What do academics do with the information after having browsed through your collection? What do they see in the archival material and what does the lantern or lantern practices help them to explain?

Every month, one scholar is interviewed about the role of the magic lantern in his or her research, across the disciplines and across all possible entry points. In the third edition of this series, we give the word to Rianne Siebenga.

If you wish to share your work, contact Sarah ("<mailto:s.dellmann@uu.nl>" s.dellmann@uu.nl)



By
Sarah
Dellmann

Rianne Siebenga, Utrecht University in the Netherlands

Where do you work and what is the topic of your research?

My background is in the history of India and from that position my interest turned to the representation of Indians in visual mass media of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. I am an affiliated PhD student with the Media and Performance department of Utrecht University in the Netherlands. The title of my project is “The representation of Indians on magic lanterns, postcards and in non-fiction films, 1870-1915” The department runs a project called The Nation and its Other <http://www.uu.nl/hum/nation-and-its-other> in which my project fits well.

When and how did the Magic Lantern appear in your research?

Initially I only included film and postcards as my media of research, until my supervisor, Frank Kessler, pointed out to me that magic lantern lectures were very popular at that time as well. It took me on a journey into the unknown, but rather intriguing world of lantern lectures about India. As Britain’s



largest colony, it was a popular topic of travel lectures and even at that time seen to be very ‘exotic’. I found a number of readings in several libraries and have made good use of John Stoddard’s lectures. He made two lectures from his journey to India which are extremely useful as many of his lantern slides have been reproduced in the fourth volume of his published lectures. It is much harder to find the actual lantern slides going with the readings. The website Lucerna has a very nice collection of slides from the lecture set India in the North-West (<http://www.slides.uni-trier.de/set/index.php?id=3000669>) and Ebay has come to my rescue in several cases. So if you have any slides of India in your collection, I would love to hear from you!



continued next page

Interview of Rianne Siebenga continued

How do you approach the lantern in your research?

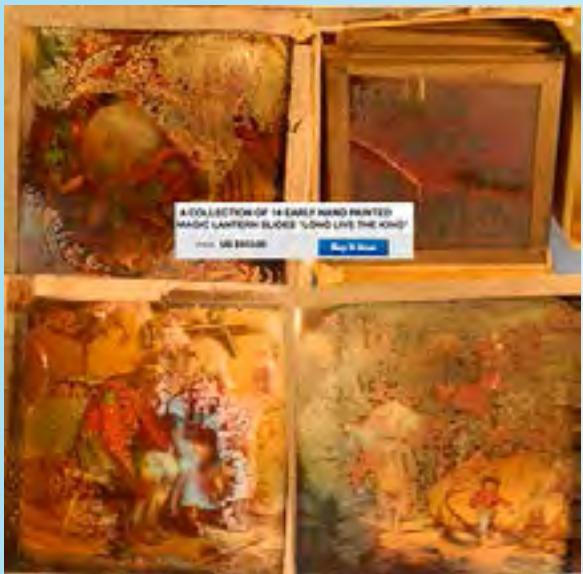
There are two ways I look at the magic lantern lectures and slides. First of all, I try to describe how Indians were represented and what the interplay between word and image was like. It is clear that the lectures were usually meant to educate non-Indians about the perceived lack of civilisation in India and the benefits British rule had brought. The images, both photographs and drawings, are often much more ambivalent in what they portray. An example is the image of the nautch girl or dancing girl portrayed here. (see illustration) This is probably a slide from York & Son manufacturers in Britain. The British considered nautch girls to be essentially prostitutes and therefore 'bad characters' because they danced in religious and public ceremonies without male accompaniment, which at that time was seen as a time of loose morals. While it is not possible to explain all the aspects of the position of the nautch girl, it is certain they among the most cultured and educated women in India. The lady on the slide is certainly attractive, but does not look like a bad character, or as if she would be easily available for sexual relations. By

placing her arm over her stomach she seems to be resisting the camera's and therefore the spectator's intrusion into herself. This fits with the fact that many of the nautch girls tried to dissociate themselves from any easy associations with prostitution, but the British did not pay much attention to this. While the lantern lectures make a point of describing all the negative characteristics of the nautch girl, this image does not confirm the description. Secondly, I compare the lantern lectures and slides with postcards and film, to understand their similarities, but also their differences. For example, early film catalogues follow the structure of the magic lantern lecture for the presentation of their films on the subject. Both began with an introduction into India, and finished with an image that brought India back into the British fold. What is different, however, is that while lantern lectures were always educational, film was always more interested in the attractive image. Thus a lantern lecture would start with a serious introduction into India's geography or religion, but the first film in a catalogue list could be the arrival of a train into an Indian station, figuratively bringing the spectator to India.

What do you wish to achieve with your research?

My aim is first of all to create more awareness of the existence of the images of Indians in postcards, lantern slides and early cinema, as the understanding of these media in the period 1870-1915 is still limited. Coinciding with this I aim to bring the visual aspect of India during colonial times more to the foreground. The way in which Indians were discussed and described in academic publications such as ethnographic writing and colonial documents texts, but also in literature, has been extensively researched. Many of these texts never reached ordinary British or American citizens, but lantern lectures, postcards and film did and might have had a significant influence in how people viewed Indians. If you like to learn more about my work, please contact me: ["mailto:riannesiebenga@online.nl](mailto:riannesiebenga@online.nl)

As Seen On



In this case the slides are printed images



Note chipped paint on many areas of slide

Price:

US \$900.00

NICE COLLECTION OF 14 EARLY MAGIC LANTERN SLIDES ONE OF WHICH ONE IS TITLED "LONG LIVE THE KING", in used and aged condition. Each slide comprises a single plain piece of glass with a second piece painted on the interior side pressed and held against the first piece with and by paper tape on all sides. The slides are in various condition from 9 good ones (with little loss of the painted surface) through to 4 not so good (with maybe up to a quarter of the painted surface lost), through to 1 broken, the title slide, (where the front plain sheet of glass is broken.) There is tape missing in places from most of the slides. Most carry numbers (between 1 and 6) in the top left hand corner. It is not clear to me whether this is a single story, or a mix of three or more stories; but there is only one title slide!

**When there are 10,848 results for
magic lantern slides on Ebay,
more damage means higher prices!**

**Clean undamaged slides seem to be
less expensive!**



Price \$49.00

Wonderful...and beautiful 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" artist rendition shows interior of huge elaborate temple...sacred site. Stunning view. No Reserve auction or buy it now...

All slides are 4" x 3 1/4 and in good condition unless otherwise noted. We WILL ship to China or elsewhere in Asia, Europe or Canada plus any U.S. destination and will discount S/H/ if multiple slides are won by same buyer. See individual slides shipping rate below. Write for quote if other nationality.

Photos are part of the description.

Price \$9.99

The image shows a boating scene along with a hotel or castle.

The image itself is in color and there is some bubbling and discoloration between the pieces of glass. There are no cracks or chips in the glass.

A Big Thank You to the following:

Deborah Borton
Terry Borton
Sarah Dellmann
Ron Easterday
Alan Johanson
Pat Kulaga
Lindsay Lambert
David Lowe

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



Thursday, Nov 21st

Group NW with John Potter and Larry Cederblom presented to the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society. Included in the presentation were:

- Lantern history
- ML Society history
- Slides and history of famous NW photographers Ashael Curtis & Haynes Photo Studio
- Images from Potatoes History and information about autochrome slides and NW photographer L. F. Murdock

and a few seasonal comic slides



More Magic Lantern Next Year

Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society
34th Annual Camera Sale, Swap and Show

Saturday April 12, 2014

On Friday April 11th members and guests can discover more about Magic Lanterns and its history in the Pacific Northwest from Group NW of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada.

Welcome New Members

Gonin, Roger

1 rue de l'Oratoire
63000 Clermont-Ferrand
France
r.gonin@clermont-filmfest.com
www.clermont-filmfest.com

Film Festival Organizer
Interests: Lanterns, Slides, Literature, Give shows.

Corrections/Updates to members listed in the Directory

MacDonald, Robert

Change in address:
Flat 26, St Aldhelms Place
25 Lindsay Road
Poole, Dorset BH13 6BL
United Kingdom